

BLUAC Steering Committee
April 7, 2005 Minutes

Chairman Averill called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. The minutes of the March 31, 2005 meeting were read and approved as read. Doug expressed the greatest kudos to the group assembling the survey for mailing on April 1, 2005.

Old Business:

Shelley Gonzales reported that over 300 of the mailed surveys were returned for address errors. After discussion, the group agreed that another effort should be made to find addresses for the returned surveys. There will be a work meeting at the Flathead Lake Lodge at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 11, 2005 to go through the addresses and try to locate correct addresses. Help is needed for this. Please bring your telephone book and a cell phone if you can help.

Pat and Craig Wagner will look into obtaining maps of the Bigfork Land Use area for display at the Bigfork Library for the public comment period. It was suggested that there be 1 large map of the entire plan area, larger sectional maps for each area designation and smaller maps to use as hand-outs. In addition, there will be overlay maps showing developments in progress.

Elna Darrow and Paul Guerrant will head up the tabulation committee. The committee is looking into survey software to make the job easier and more accurate. They will contact the University of Montana and Janet Cornish for suggestions of appropriate software.

Elna reported on her email from Joe Brenneman regarding the BLUAC meeting that was cancelled for lack of quorum. He had check^{ed} with Flathead County Attorney, Jonathan Smith, who gave the opinion that since BLUAC is an advisory board, it is not required that they make a recommendation. He noted that the public would have the opportunity to comment at the County Planning Board Meeting or the Board of Adjustment. Therefore, the public's right to comment is not violated. He also suggested that the BLUAC by-laws might be amended to cover future problems in meeting the quorum. Elna told the committee she had thanked Joe for coming to Bigfork and helping with the survey.

John Bourquin also reported on his response from Johna Morrison regarding the lack of quorum. He noted that it would be important to poll BLUAC board members a week before the meeting so that public notice could be given of a change in date for lack of quorum. Seven days is required for public notice. The Daily Inter Lake is the publication used for public notice.

Clarice Ryan gave a brief report on the progress of the Evergreen group's plans for organizing Community Council. She did say they would like to use both the 1991 and 2005 survey from Bigfork to use as a guideline for their survey.

New Business:

Brett Thuma reported on an informational flyer from the Flathead Lakers concerning the Sortino development on the north shore of Flathead Lake (south of Holt Drive). The flyer urges the public to contact the various organizations concerned with making the decisions on the proposal to build a sea wall, etc. to protect the Sortino and Keenan property from further erosion with their opinions and concerns.

Chairman Averill reported on ~~House~~^{Senate} Bill 411, which proposes a "buy-back" for commercial signs. This bill is contrary to the Bigfork Land Use Plan. He urged people to read the bill and write letters outlining their concerns.

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Doug Averill and Clarice Ryan reported on fire prevention efforts with the Bigfork Fire Department and Pacific Power. PPL will conduct a tour in May to assess what needs to be done on their property near Bigfork. There was discussion of some "state of the art" equipment being used to clean up forests. Doug talked briefly about the equipment he was using on his property to clear areas of fire fuel. Of note was the equipment, which breaks up branches and scatters them on the forest floor to prevent damage from equipment moving on the forest floor. Photos of European equipment were passed. It was noted that one of the techniques bundles branches for further processing into pressed wood products, an effort to recycle slash rather than burn.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Sue Hanson, Secretary